National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Air pollution and climate change on the worsening of allergic respiratory diseases

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Abstract:

It is now widely accepted that earth,s temperature is increasing, as confirmed by warming of the oceans, rising sea levels, glaciers melting, sea ice retreating in the Arctic and diminished snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere. Moreover, changes are also occurring in the amount, intensity, frequency and type of precipitation and in occurrence of extreme events, like heat waves, droughts, floods and hurricanes. The massive increase in emissions of air pollutants due to economic and industrial growth in the last century made air quality an environmental problem of first order in a large number of European countries and in North America and is now an emerging problem in other regions of the world, in particular in high populated Asian urban areas. The enormous increase in the number of motor vehicles worldwide has resulted in a tremendous increase in energy consumption and in air-polluting emissions from cars, in particular those with diesel engines. Several air pollutants are in the list of greenhouse gases which are involved in the global warming. In urban areas with high levels of vehicle traffic, the most abundant air pollutants are respirable particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and ozone (O3).

Source:
http://www.aiponet.it/editoria/rassegna/archivio-rassegna/archivio-rassegna-2/archivio-rassegna-2008/235-rassegna-di-patologia-dell-apparato-respiratorio-fascicolo-6-2008.h

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Precipitation

Air Pollution: Allergens, Ozone, Particulate Matter, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): NO2

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Upper Respiratory Allergy

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified